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MINUTES OF THE

Third Annual Session,

OF THE

United

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH KING'S CREEK CHURCH,

CALDWELL COUNTY, N. C.,

OCTOBER 15-17, 1862.

MARION, N. C.

PRINTED AT THE "ENTERPRISE" OFFICE,

1862.

Proceedings.

KING'S CREEK, Caldwell County, N. C., }
THURSDAY, Oct. 16th, 1862. }

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder F. A. Belcher, from 133rd Psalm, and 1st verse, "Behold how good and how pleasant," &c.

After an Intermission of 15 minutes, the delegates convened in the Meeting-house, and was called to order by Elder S. Ferguson, Elder S. M. Collis leading in prayer.

Letters from 17 churches were presented and read.

The Association was organized by the election of Elder S. Ferguson, Moderator; and P. Eller, Clerk.

Took up the letter from Liberty Chapel church, and restored her back to the fellowship of the Association, and invited Elder S. Trivett, her delegate to a seat with the Association.

Elder S. P. Smith requested the Association to bear with the Fishing Creek church one year, inasmuch as she failed to represent herself in the Association at this session, which was granted.

Invited corresponding messengers, when the following were received: from the Roan Mountain, Elder S. M. Collis, Brother S. Buchanan, Elder G. Cook, with a letter and minutes. From the Catawba, Elder R. H. Moody and Brother P. Warlick with a letter but no minutes. From the Lebanon, Brother W. C. Parks with a letter but no minutes. All of whom received the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator and seated with the Association.

On motion, transient preachers were invited to seats. Elders S. P. Smith, J. Collis, J. A. Stradley, and E. A. Poe accepted the invitation.

On motion, Elder W. R. Gaultney, agent of army colportage, was invited to a seat with us.

On motion, the delegates of this church, together with the pastor, were appointed a committee on devotional exercises, and that they report from day to day; who reported for to-morrow—Elders G. Cook, J. A. Stradley and J. Collis.

On motion, appointed Elders R. Gentry, I. Oxford, J. B. Green, F. A. Belcher, J. G. Bryan with the Moderator and Clerk, a com.



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mittee of Arrangements and invited the corresponding messengers to sit with said committee.

On motion, adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, and that oneshalf hour be spent in prayer for the prosperity of our country. Prayer by Elder Moody.

FRIDAY, October 17.

The Association met according to adjournment. Elder F. A. Belcher leading in prayer imploring Divine Providence for his mercies in behalf of the Confederate government, and the success of our arms.

Elder S. M. Collis followed imploring God to hasten the time when the distress of our country, shall come to an end, and Peace be restored to our beloved country.

The Association resumed her regular business.

Called the roll of delegates and marked absentees.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Called on committee of Arrangements who reported and were discharged.

Read rules of Decorum.

The Moderator announced the following committees :

On Finance—Brethren W. Pool and J. T. Shell. On Temperance—J. G. Bryan, R. H. Moody, and S. M. Collis. On Sabbath Schools—S. Trivett, W. C. Parks. On Periodicals—J. B. Green, J. Eller. On Missions—F. A. Belcher, C. Clark, J. A. Stradley. On Resolutions—R. Gentry, J. Reed and E. A. Poe. On Colportage—W. R. Gaultney and J. Collis. On Education—F. A. Belcher, W. C. Parks and J. A. Stradley.

Called on the Treasurer, who reported and report received. See report at Letter A.

Called on corresponding messengers appointed to sister Associations, who reported and were discharged.

Took up and considered the letter from the Catawba Association which letter requested to know of this association whether she is willingly corresponding with the Roan Mountain Association ; said letter alleging that the 14th article of her constitution contradicts her own articles of faith. On motion, the matter was referred to a committee of three, consisting of Elders S. Trivett, R. Gentry and F. A. Belcher.

On motion extended the invitation of yesterday inviting transient preachers, when Elder Wm. Hall from the Roaring River association accepted the invitation.

On motion the Association took a recess for half an hour.

Again resumed business and took up the request from Little River church asking a letter of dismission, it being ascertained that said church was holding members who are engaged in distilling ar-

dent spirits. On motion the Association withdrew her fellowship from said church.

On motion, the chair appointed a committee of three to inquire into the state of the churches on Temperance, said committee to consist of Elders J. McNeil, J. H. Brown and brother E. K. Walsh.

On motion adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, with the understanding that half an hour be spent in supplication at a Throne of Grace in behalf of our distressed country.

Committee on devotional exercises reported for to-morrow, Elds. J. Reed, W. R. Gaukney, E. A. Poe, and S. M. Collis. Prayer by Elder Poe.

SATURDAY, October 18.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder S. Trivett.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Considered the letter from New Bethany asking one year, &c.

Called on the delegates to the Western convention who reported and were discharged.

Appointed Elders F. A. Belcher, J. McNeil, S. P. Smith, I. Oxford, delegates to the next session of the Western Baptist Convention which will convene at Locust Old Field church, Haywood county, N. C., 18 miles west of Asheville to commence on Thursday evening after the 4th Sabbath in August, 1863.

Appointed corresponding messengers as follows: To the Catawba River association—Elders I. Oxford, S. Ferguson, R. Gentry, F. A. Belcher, J. G. Bryan, J. H. West, and H. Holsclaw. To the Lebanon—Elder S. Trivett, J. McNeil, S. Ferguson and R. Gentry. Yadkin—Elders S. P. Smith, J. B. Green and F. A. Belcher. Roan Mountain—Elders S. Trivett, J. McNeil, R. Gentry, H. Holsclaw, J. H. West and I. Oxford. Jellerson—Elders S. P. Smith, S. Trivett and R. Gentry.

The committee to whom the letter of the Catawba association was referred, asked indulgence for 12 months which was granted.

Called on the committee appointed to visit the Union church, who made the following report: "We, F. A. Belcher, J. McNeil, and William Pool met at Union church, on Friday before the first Lord's day in December, 1861, according to the appointment of the Association, when the church informed us, that she had no business for us to transact.

WM. POOL, Chairman,

The chair announced the following standing committees: On temperance, Elder S. P. Smith; Sabbath Schools, J. McNeil; Periodicals, James Eller; Missions, F. A. Belcher; Colportage, J. B. Green; Education, J. Shell.

The committee of three appointed on the state of the churches on temperance, reported and were discharged. See report, B.

On motion, the churches were called upon in the order reported by the committee, when they were dealt with as follows :

On motion, the order of business was suspended to hear the report of Financial committee.

On motion, the report of the Financial committee was received, and money paid over to the clerk, subject to the further orders of the Association.

The regular order of business was again resumed, when, on motion the Lewis Fork church was passed over as not guilty of a violation of the constitution. Upon request of the delegation, the New Hope church was given a year to rid her self of disorderly members, if any should really be found among her membership.

Upon motion the Beaver Creek church was passed over for want of sufficient evidence to make it clear that she had violated the constitution. Upon request, the King's Creek church was granted the space of another year to deal with her membership and set them right before the Association.

On motion, Taylor Spring church was allowed another year to deal with any of her members who may be living in violation of the Constitution of the Association.

On motion, Taylorsville church was passed over, the pastor promising to investigate the report against the church.

On motion, the Association withdrew her fellowship from the Three Fork church.

On motion, a year's indulgence was granted to Mt. Gilead church.

On motion the Liberty Grove church was passed over as innocent of the charge of intemperance.

On motion, a year's indulgence was granted to the church at Mt. Zion.

On motion the church at Dover was passed over as innocent.

On motion, the fellowship of the Association was withdrawn from the Union church.

On motion, a committee of two was appointed to visit each church delinquent in delegating to the Association.

To Pilgrim ; Elders S H Brown and Jas. McNeill. Antioch ; H Holsclaw and James Reed. To Walnut Grove ; Elders S Ferguson and S P Smith. Macedonia ; Elder F A Belcher and Brother J Palmer. Zion Hill ; Elders I Oxford and S Ferguson.

On motion, the Clerk was allowed ten dollars for his services, and instructed to have eight hundred copies of the minutes struck off and retain the remainder of the funds in his hands if any.

On motion the petition of the church at Liberty Grove for the Association was heard, and the Association appointed to be held with that church, on Thursday before the third Sabbath in October, 1863. Liberty church is four miles west of Taylorsville. Elder R Gentry to preach the Introductory sermon Eld. I Oxford, alternate.

On motion, Elder F A Belcher was appointed to preach the Denominational Sermon.

On motion, the appointment of some one to preach the Missionary Sermon, was suspended until our next Associational meeting.

Called on Missionaries to report. Elder McNeill reported that he had not travelled any but had sold books to the amount of \$.— which money was ordered to be handed over to the Treasurer and kept as a book fund to be expended as needed by the Association.

Report on Education was received and committee discharged. See report at Letter D.

Elder Belcher was then permitted to present the claims of the United Baptist Institute. A contribution of \$200 was collected for this purpose.

Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted. See report, letter C.

Report on Periodicals read and adopted. See report at Letter B.

Report on Temperance read and adopted. See report at Letter E.

Report on Missions called for and read. Pending the adoption of this report, several interesting remarks were submitted, and upon motion of Elder McNeill, an Executive Committee of three was appointed, whose business it shall be to appoint a missionary to labor in the bounds of the Association. For report see Appendix, H. Brethren Thomas J. Lamb, J. Eller, and Thomas Isbell were appointed on said Committee.

On motion, the Committee were instructed to employ an efficient Missionary and pay him one dollar and a half per day for every day he rides as such, and also that he be authorized to collect his own salary from the churches as he travels.

The Committee on resolutions was called upon to report. Report received and adopted. See Appendix, I.

On motion, the reading of the report on Colportage was deferred until Sabbath, immediately after the Missionary Sermon and that Brother Gaultney be permitted to present the claims of Army Colportage to the Association and congregation.

Committee on Religious exercises reported Elder Moody to preach first on Sabbath a Denominational Sermon; Elder Stradley, second, a Missionary Sermon; and Elder S. M. Collis third and last.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place already mentioned. Prayer by Elder McNeill.

Thus closed a most pleasant and interesting meeting of this Association.

SUNDAY, Oct. 19. 1862.

The Stand was occupied by those appointed. Elder Moody preached first from James, iv, 12. Elder Stradley from Matthew v., 14. Elder S. M. Collis closed the exercises of the day, from Cor. v, 13. After the second sermon, Elder Gaultney read report on army colportage and made an appeal in behalf of that object to the congregation and collected Seventy dollars and eighty-five cents.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

[A]

[NOTE.— The Clerk failed to send the Treasurer's report with the other manuscript.—PRINTER]

[B]

ON STATE OF CHURCHES ON TEMPERANCE.

The committee to whom was referred the investigation of the standing of the churches on the Temperance question submit the following report: We find some evidence that the following churches are more or less guilty of violation of the constitution on this subject—Lewis Fork, Beaver Creek, King's Creek, Taylor Spring, Mt. Gueal, Taylorsville, Three Forks, Liberty Grove, Mt. Zion, and Dover.

Respectfully submitted,

J. McNEILL, Chairman.

[C]

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It is apparent to all who are acquainted with Sabbath schools that there is no place devised as yet so well calculated to improve the rising generation for usefulness in this life; 'tis here our children are taught to love the Sabbath and to keep it holy; 'tis here they are taught to read the Bible and taught to love and respect its laws; 'tis here they are kept from associating with wild companions which tends to disgrace them and corrupt their morals. The Sabbath school is the nursery of the church. It is to the Sabbath school we must look for those to fill our places both in church and State. How important then that we give them early religious training! Let each church have a Sabbath school with proper officers and Teachers and the work will go on. Let none say, "I pray thee have me excused" from such a noble work as this. How lamentable it is to think that so many youths are gaming, sporting on the Sabbath day which might be otherwise had they a Sabbath school to go to. Your committee desires that the subject of Sabbath schools shall receive more attention in the future than it has done in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. TRIVETT, Chairman.

[D]
ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on education submit the following report: The cause of Education has made wonderful progress in Western North Carolina. Several schools of high grade have been put in successful operation and were exerting a salutary influence upon the rising generation, till almost stopped by the war that is now upon us. No subject should claim more of our attention than that of educating the youth of our country.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. A. BELCHER Chairman.

[E]
PERIODICALS.

Your committee on periodicals heartily recommend the Biblical Recorder as our organ, an able and faithful exponent of orthodox principles and doctrine. We are proud to say that it is worthy of the patronage of the brethren generally.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. B. GREEN, Chairm'n.

[F]
TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is a Bible doctrine, but intemperance, its opposite, is an awful curse to the church and an enemy to civil liberty; therefore, no man that engages in the manufactory or trafficking in ardent spirits, no matter under what pretence, should be regarded as a friend to the church or state. The churches should get rid of such members in the shortest scriptural manner possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. D. BRYAN, Chairman.

[G]
ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on missions beg leave to submit the following as their report:

We are sorry that the distracted condition of our country prevents us from doing what we usually have done for Foreign Missions. Yet we are glad that we can subcultivate the Home Mission field to great advantage.

This field is as accessible and as important as ever. The home field should be well cultivated so that it may yield more abundant resources for the Foreign, when in the providence of God it shall be made accessible to us.

We recommend the association to aid the Convention in sustaining her Home Missionaries, and also to appoint and sustain an efficient Missionary in her own bounds. This is one of the very best means of supplying desaturation and of encouraging and instructing our churches generally.

We would also call the attention of the Association to the importance of army missions during the present crisis.

Respectfully Submitted

F. A. BELCHER, Ch'man.

[H]
ON COLPORTAGE.

Your Committee on Colportage submit the following report: The subject of colportage is one that should demand the prayerful consideration of every true believer in Christ; for no plan can be adopted by the church by which the truths of the gospel could be so rapidly spread, and with so much success, as by a regular system of Colportage, sending out testaments, religious books, and the pages of truth in the form of tracts; supplying the destitute with the words of eternal life. The most reckless sinner and confirmed infidel have been awakened and led to seek an interest in the blood of Christ, by reading a tract dropped on their tables by the humble colporteur. Would you see the importance of this work more clearly? if so, go to our camps and behold the gallant soldiers as they gather around the colporteur and call for tracts and testaments, and return to their tents and read with tears rolling down their cheeks. In the hospital, the wounded son, husband or father cries, "give me a tract" — "give me a testament." Let us consider the demands of this object. Let us give of the means that God has given us to carry on this great work. God has always blest it; he still blesses it as an instrument in his hands in accomplishing his great ends. The cold state of our churches demands the labors of the pious colporteur; the exposed condition of our friends in the army demands our efforts in their behalf. Who then that loves Christ, or desires the salvation of souls can withhold his labors from this noble work?

Respectfully, &c.

W. R. GAULTNEY, Chairman.

Resolutions. [I]

Whereas, we believe the true Bible doctrine of Temperance forbids the manufactory, vending and the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, therefore, Resolved that we as an association will not hold in fellowship any church that retains a member or members that make, buy, sell or use ardent spirits except for Medical and Mechanical purposes.

Resolved, secondly that we will not knowingly correspond with any association that does not live up to the spirit of this resolution.

Resolved, that we heartily endorse Elder N. B. Cobb as General Superintendent of army Colportage in North Carolina, and not only pledge him our co operation but recommend him and his works to the prayers, sympathies and contributions of the christians within our bounds.

Resolved, that we also recognize Elder W. R. Gaultney agent for, and co-laborer in the same object of christian beneficence.

Whereas, we have heard with pleasure of the school at Taylorsville under the charge of Elder F. A. Belcher, as principal and Wm. Brunt, as assistant; therefore, Resolved that we will co operate with the Trustees and Teachers of said school in promoting the interest of the same, and we will recommend it to the patronage of our bretheren generally.

Resolved, that we would earnestly recommend our churches to hold monthly prayer meetings for the special benefit of the soldiers in our army.

Resolved, that we recommend the churches composing this body to hold regular Minister's and Deacon's meetings, Friday before 5th Sabbath in each month having five Sabbaths.

Resolved, that any member of this body who may be present at the meeting of the Western Convention shall be entitled to represent any moneys belonging to this Convention not otherwise appropriated.

Since our last Session, we have heard of and deeply regret the death of our highly esteemed brother, J. H. Spainhower, who was born on the 14th day of January, 1835, and died on the 17th October, 1861. Brother Spainhower was a young man of great promise and deep piety. He was converted on the 5th of Nov., 1856, and baptized into the fellowship of the Church at Waynesville, N. C., on the same date, by Eld. R. H. Moody. From thence he removed to Smyrna Church, Burke, Co., N. C., by which church he was licensed to preach the gospel of Christ. Soon after this time he entered the school at Taylorsville where he remained three sessions making rapid progress in his studies. He opened the New hope Academy on the 7th July 1859, at which point he remained until the breaking out of hostilities between the North and South. He volunteered and went into the army as a soldier and continued in that position until June 1861, when he was appointed chaplain of the First Regiment of N. C. Troops, and held that position to the entire satisfaction of all, until his much lamented death. Having lived an exemplary life worthy of imitation in regard to Temperance and all the other doctrines of the Gospel, he was firm and unflinching; and said on his death bed that he had strong faith in God, therefore,

Resolved, that while we would ever bow with humble reverence to the dispensations of an all-wise God yet we feel deeply to mourn the loss of one bidding far to become so useful in the vineyard of the Lord.

Resolved, secondly, that we offer our sincere condolence to the Parents and friends of our deceased brother.

Resolved, thirdly, we would earnestly recommend to our young brethren while they should ever follow the commandments of Christ, to remember the good example set by our young brother Spainhower.

Resolved, that the principal of the United Baptist Institute, at Taylorsville be allowed to publish the advertisement of said Institute in the minutes of this association, free of charge.

Whereas, we as a people are engaged in a bloody war with the North and whereas many of our churches have been almost broken up by so many members volunteering and going into the service of their country therefore,

Resolved, that we feel deeply the necessity of fervent and earnest prayer to God for his interposition in our behalf.

Resolved, that we as a religious body do not feel any thing short of an acknowledgement on the part of the North of our experience as a people should be received as a compromise of our difficulties.

Resolved, that the thanks of this association are immediately due and are hereby tendered to friends and brethren in this community for their hospitality to its members during the present session.

